

Obituaries

George Edward Hale Enderby

A pioneer of hypotensive anaesthesia

Hale Enderby is best known for his pioneering work in hypotensive anaesthesia. This is the technique of lowering blood pressure during surgery, making operations safer and more rapid, and enabling more complicated surgery while controlling blood loss from the patient.

In 1948-9 the pharmacologists Paton and Zaimis first described a range of new drugs, the methonium compounds, some of which could lower blood pressure. Hale Enderby saw that this fall in blood pressure could be used to lessen bleeding during surgery—the snag was measuring the low blood pressures. Early methods of measurement relied on using a mercury column, but the Korotkov sounds become inaudible below 60 mm Hg systolic. The pulse also becomes impalpable at that pressure. However, this was the level of blood pressure needed to reduce bleeding significantly. Hale Enderby introduced into anaesthesia the oscillometer, an older and largely forgotten method of blood pressure measurement but one that proved capable of measuring accurately these low pressures. He was also responsible for introducing the “anti-trendelenburg” or head-up tilt of the operating table to assist in the lowering of blood pressure.

George Edward Hale Enderby was born in Boston, Lincolnshire. At the start of the second world war he joined the emergency medical service after being turned down for active military service because of a duodenal ulcer. He worked initially at Guy's Hospital and then at Pembury Hospital, Kent, to which many of the Guy's facilities were moved after the hospital was bombed at the start of the war. It was there that he was asked to move into anaesthesia. He organised most of his training himself by reading and visiting notable anaesthetists of the day.

In 1944 he moved to Rookdown House, Basingstoke, a plastic and jaw unit, where he helped treat injured and burned servicemen, and in 1946, at the end of the war, he set up in practice, taking consultant posts at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, and the Metropolitan Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital, London, while continuing at



Basingstoke one day a week. In 1947 he was invited to Bergen, Norway, where he spent a month teaching anaesthesia for the reconstructive surgery being undertaken there. In 1951 he moved to an NHS post at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, where he was to work for many years with the plastic surgery giant Sir Archibald McIndoe.

Hale Enderby published his first paper on hypotensive anaesthesia in 1950, going on to publish more than 25 papers on this subject in the anaesthetic, surgical, and medical journals. At that time, as a result of this work, he became one of the most well known anaesthetists in the world and travelled widely, lecturing on hypotensive anaesthesia. He visited the United States, Australia, South Africa, Canada, and most European countries. In 1975-6 he went to Chicago for three months as visiting professor of anaesthesia.

While others also did research and published papers on the new drugs and techniques, Hale Enderby was the ambassador, travelling, lecturing, and visiting departments of anaesthesia worldwide. He wrote a chapter on hypotensive anaesthesia in the

Textbook of Anaesthesia edited by Gray, Nunn, and Utting, and in 1984 edited his own book, *Hypotensive Anaesthesia*, which was a seminal work.

Like many others at the time, Hale Enderby designed and had made his own anaesthetic equipment—for example, a portable anaesthetic machine necessary for his private practice at the start of his career and then, later on, his own tracheal tubes and other anaesthetic equipment, such as one of the first waste gas scavange valves in the early 1970s.

In the early 1960s he had an increasing private practice in London and would spend midweek in his Harley Street apartment to be near his work. He eventually retired from anaesthesia in 1986 after undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery.

He was a keen golfer from an early age. He became captain of the Medical Golfing Society in 1965 and president in 1972-3. At that time he organised an annual golf match with its American counterpart, an event that continues to this day. He was a member of the Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club and continued to play there until he was nearly 80 years old. In 1980 he presented an eponymous golfing trophy, the Enderby Plate, for which the staff at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, compete annually.

He also was very fond of his motor cars and for many years enjoyed owning and driving a Bentley.

In his final years he had some cerebrovascular inefficiency as a result of hypertension and was frustrated by his inability to continue life at the pace that he preferred. He leaves a wife, Dorothy; three children; and seven grandchildren.

There will be a thanksgiving service on Monday 24 May at 2.30 pm in Guy's Hospital Chapel, St Thomas's Street, London SE1, and afterwards at the Burfoot Room, Guy's Hospital. [DAVID ENDERBY]

George Edward Hale Enderby, former consultant anaesthetist Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead (b 1915; q Cambridge/Guy's Hospital, London, 1941; DA, FFARCS), d 30 December 2003.

Alfred John ("Jack") Drew

Former consultant general surgeon Walsall (b Ceylon 1916; q Guy's Hospital, London, 1939; FRCS), d 29 February 2004.

He taught anatomy before being called up as a surgical specialist in the eastern Mediterranean. He survived the sinking of the *Medway* and spent time in Massawa. After the second world war he returned to Guy's to complete his surgical training and was appointed consultant surgeon to the Walsall Hospitals in 1951. He retired to Lymington in 1981 and continued to sail to France and along the south coast into his 80s. He leaves a wife, Patricia, and three children. [KEITH STEWART]

medical officer of health of the newly formed London Borough of Hounslow (1964-73), and area medical officer to Ealing, Hammersmith, and Hounslow (1973-83) he was able to build up local services. He produced in Hounslow one of the first custom built health centres in the country. One of his most notable achievements was the creation of a new philosophy towards people with physical disabilities, for which he was known internationally. He leaves his second wife, Pat; two children by his first marriage; and two grandchildren. [PAT LONDON]

Francis Isidore Rackow



Former consultant physician St Helier Hospital, Sutton, and St Anthony's Hospital, Cheam (b 1922; q King's College Hospital, London, 1959; MD, FRCP, FRCPC), died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on 3 October 2003.

After qualification Frank served as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps and trained in London. He was a general physician with wide interests. His retirement was active and fulfilling, though marred by the loss of a daughter in the *Marchioness* disaster, when a riverboat sank in the Thames. He pursued his strong interests in wine, local history, music, church architecture, and gardening. He leaves a wife, Jean, and four children. [MALCOLM HODKINSON]

Rhoda Rebecca Law



General practitioner Wembley 1953-87 (b Birmingham 1928; q Cambridge 1951; BA), died from metastatic breast cancer on 1 April 2004.

Rhoda was in the second intake of Barts women clinical medical students. She commented that a decision was made that these female students should not see male urology patients. Dr Rhoda, as she was known by her patients, practised as a family doctor with her husband, Ron, in Wembley. Her special interests were developmental paediatrics and women's medicine. She had broad intellectual interests and a particular love of Jane Austen and women's literature. She leaves Ron; three children; and eight grandchildren. [ADAM LAW]

Geoffrey Mitchell

General practitioner London (b 1932; q Leeds 1955; MRCP, FRCP Ed), died from an astrocytoma on 18 September 2003.

During his student years Geoffrey learnt to fly in the university air squadron. After house posts he joined the Royal Air Force. He undertook postgraduate training in renal medicine, ultimately becoming a senior specialist in medicine at RAF Halton and later in Wegberg, West Germany. In 1966 he joined, as a temporary assistant, a private practice in the Harley Street precinct. The "temporary" job lasted 37 years until his death. In 1974 his two daughters survived a fire in the family home, but his wife died trying to save a friend. Some years later Geoffrey remarried, and now leaves a wife and a daughter, as well as two daughters from his first marriage. [STUART UNGAR]

Sheila Anne Robertson (née Martyn)



Obstetrician Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey, 1963-84 (b 1927; q Bristol 1952; FRCOG), died from Alzheimer's disease on 27 October 2003.

She became the first woman chairman of the medical staff committee at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey, and medical representative on the board of health. She initiated annual weekend symposia for postgraduate education on the island with visiting specialists. Renal complications prevented her from continuing active surgery and so she concentrated on medical gynaecology, relaxation therapy, and psychosexual counselling after training in hypnotherapy and after Jungian analysis. She was marriage guidance tutor for the Channel Islands, initiating primary school sessions on personal relationships ahead of current practice. She leaves a husband, Struan; two children; and three grandchildren. [STRUAN ROBERTSON]

John Richard Perry



General practitioner Dovercourt, Essex (b Redhill, Surrey, 1945; q St Thomas's Hospital, London, 1969; DA, MRCOG, MRCP), died from a heart attack on 15 March 2004.

Richard joined a practice in Dovercourt, Harwich, in 1972. Harwich had a tradition of extended general practice with a thriving GP hospital, which in 1975 became integrated into Colchester medical and surgical services. Richard's skills as a GP anaesthetist and obstetrician were put to good use. He became senior partner in 1985 and retired from anaesthetics in 1995 to concentrate on guiding the practice through the fundholding years. He died on his first voyage as a ship's doctor. He leaves a wife, Elisabeth, and two sons. [CHRIS STRACHAN]

Robert Lidstone Lindon



Public health doctor west London 1953-94 (b 1924; q St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1948; DPH, DCH, FFCM, FFPHM), d 13 February 2004.

Robert Lindon's public health career spanned the best years of the NHS, for which he fought all his life. As senior medical officer of Hounslow (1954-64),

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